


HUNTINGTON BEACH STATE PARK
A VISITOR'S GUIDE
to the
Historic and Natural Areas



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Atalaya 1933



Atalaya 1984

INTRODUCTION

Huntington Beach State Park is located on lands which traditionally have been associated with the plantation properties that today compose Brookgreen Gardens. The State of South Carolina signed a fifty year lease agreement in 1960 with Brookgreen Gardens for 2,500 acres of ocean front property on which to create a state park. The park, named in honor of Archer Milton and Anna Hyatt Huntington who founded Brookgreen Gardens, contains 2,500 acres which feature maritime forests, salt marshes and pristine beaches. Its ocean frontage, separated from the mainland by a salt marsh, is part of a three mile strip of beach known over the years as Allston Island, Theaville and Magnolia Island. The beach served many generations of planters as a resort site to escape their malaria-ridden inland homes. William Hasell Wilson writing in his *Reminiscences* stated:

"The several tracts of land extended from the river to the Atlantic Ocean, the width of the strip of land ranging from two and a half to four miles. Most of these tracts had a house for summer residence at the seashore, some of them directly on the beach, and others on the main land, which was to a considerable extent separated from the beach by inlets, which were very shallow and almost dry at low tide; across these inlets causeways were constructed at intervals, giving access to the beach. . . ."

It was partly this search for a healthier environment for Mrs. Huntington that lured the Huntingtons to coastal South Carolina and to their eventual purchase of Brookgreen in 1930.

The area the Huntingtons saw, which was known as Waccamaw Neck, was an isolated, rural and economically backward region of South Carolina. It had not always been so. In the years before and after the American Revolution, the growing of rice had made the "Neck" the site of the most successful agricultural enterprise of its time. It was rice, decades before cotton became

"king," which placed South Carolina in the economic forefront among her sister colonies. Huge fortunes were made by the planters, who displayed their wealth in comfortable and stylish homes complete with the most fashionable furnishings and the trappings of culture. Children studied at the best schools and universities, many in England. Summer homes were maintained in cooler climes such as Newport, Rhode Island, and later the mountains of North Carolina.

The region also wielded early political power, supplying military leaders as well as men influential in government. Governor Robert F. W. Alston had his home at Brookgreen. That George Washington spent the night at Brookgreen on his Southern tour of 1791, demonstrates the importance of the region.

Life on the Neck exacted its price, however. For those who did not vacate their homes between March and October malaria was a mysterious killer which usually made no distinction between the slave and his master. Many planters who wished to keep their families closer at hand while they managed their lands maintained houses on the ocean dunes, where the disease was less likely to strike. One such settlement, called Theaville, existed during the early nineteenth century near where Atalaya stands today.

This precaution was also fraught with danger, as the late summer was also the hurricane season. It is difficult to imagine the terror inspired by these storms which approached with no warning in the days before modern communication and weather forecasting. Entire families were lost with their homes. The appendix describes the tragic loss of Dr. J.J. Ward Flagg's family.

Rice production continued to expand until the Civil War brought an end to slavery, which was the cornerstone of that system. Of all the agricultural enterprises of man, few require the huge investment of labor required by rice

cultivation. Swamps were cleared of their heavy growth and dikes were built to hold water in these fields. A complicated system of canals and flood gates were then constructed in order to regulate precisely the water levels at specific times in the growing cycle of the plants.

Without the regimented system of labor provided by slavery it was difficult to maintain and operate the vast and complex system. Rice cultivation continued on a diminished scale after the Civil War. No economic enterprise was to be forthcoming to replace rice. The "Neck" was to become an area dominated by fishing and small subsistence farms.

The generation after the Civil War found a new utilization of the land on the Neck. Like many other areas along the South Carolina coast, the Waccamaw Neck attracted migrating waterfowl in huge numbers. The mild winter climate combined with hunting opportunities attracted the attention of individuals and sporting clubs from the more affluent Northern states. They found that waterfowl habitat could be improved by restoration of the old rice fields to retain fresh water. It was from such a hunting club that Mr. Huntington made his purchase.

THE HUNTINGTONS

Anna Vaughn Hyatt was born March 10, 1876, the third child of Alpheus Hyatt, II, and Audella Hyatt of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her father was an academician whose lifework was in the fields of zoology and paleontology. It was in this environment of learning that young Anna Hyatt's interest in wildlife and sculpture was nurtured. In an effort to support his daughter's interest, Mr. Hyatt built a studio for Anna and her older sister, Harriet, who was also an aspiring sculptor.

Around the turn of the century Anna studied with several well known artists, but liked best to observe and study live animals. Her first one-woman show was at the Boston Art Club in 1901 where she displayed some fifty pieces of her

work. She became well known as an animalier as well as for her heroic pieces. In 1915 she unveiled her sculpture of *Joan of Arc* which would launch her into the international limelight. While working on a medal for the Hispanic Society of America, Anna met the society's founder, Archer Milton Huntington.

Born on March 10, 1870, in New York City, Archer Milton Huntington was the only son of transportation magnate Collis P. Huntington and his second wife, Arabella Yarrington Huntington. At a very early age Archer developed an interest in the arts, history and literature which was encouraged by his mother with frequent trips to museums and art galleries wherever they travelled. Having become enamored with Spanish culture during his early travels, Archer Huntington chose to forego a formal education and devoted his time to studying the language, arts, history and literature of Spain. Between 1897 and 1903, he completed a scholarly translation of the epic poem *El Cid*, which is still highly regarded today. Rather than enter the business world like his father, the younger Huntington chose to become an art historian, Hispanic scholar and philanthropist, founding more than a dozen museums.

It was their common love of the arts which first brought Anna Hyatt and Archer Huntington together. During the early 1920's, they worked together on exhibitions for the Hispanic Society. It was much to the surprise of their friends that they were married on March 10, 1923, the date of both of their birthdays. Mrs. Huntington was forty-seven with Mr. Huntington six years her senior.

In 1927 Mrs. Huntington unveiled her *El Cid*, a very powerful statue in bronze that was to receive critical acclaim. Later that year, while at the family retreat at Arbutus Camp in upstate New York, Mrs. Huntington developed a severe chest cold. Later examination revealed she had a tubercular affliction which was the result of her cold and her generally weakened condition. This initiated a seven year search for a better climate which would aid the restitution of Mrs. Huntington's health.

EARLY DAYS AT BROOKGREEN

Sailing down the Intercoastal Waterway in January of 1930, the Huntingtons stopped to investigate some coastal property in upper Georgetown County described in a real estate brochure which had been given to them before their departure. The brochure emphasized that the acreage was a hunting and fishing preserve which featured an ancient garden, a farm house near the Waccamaw River and a house on the beach. The Huntingtons did not take long to come to a decision concerning the property, for on January 24, 1930, Mr. Huntington purchased for \$225,000 the 6,635 acres which composed the four plantations of the tract from the FMC Corporation Hunt Club. The initial acquisition was later increased to around 9,127 acres, rounding out Brookgreen Gardens present boundaries. In 1931 Brookgreen was incorporated as a eleemosynary institution under the laws of South Carolina as "a Society for Southeastern Flora and Fauna." In addition to serving as a preserve for animals and plants, the Huntingtons had also envisioned the gardens acting as a backdrop for the sculptures of Mrs. Huntington and other American sculptors.

The Huntingtons were obviously taken with the beauty of the Brookgreen properties and were able to visualize this beauty even in the dead of winter. The following excerpt is from a letter dated January 29, 1930, written by Mrs. Huntington to one of her friends, in which she describes their arrival in Georgetown, the trip to Brookgreen and her first impressions of the Brookgreen properties.

"I must tell you about our one day at Brookgreen while it is fresh in my mind, else all that we have seen since will dim it. Most of the inhabitants seemed to have the leisure to watch the process of our landing when we docked at Georgetown — a small sleepy town . . . Our captain took pains to be as slow and impressive as possible for coming in and out of harbor is like foot-lights to the actor. I feel like taking part in a comic play when we step across the gangway with the steward and officers all

at attention — it seemed as tho' one of them must burst into a tenor solo before the curtain dropped.

We unfortunately lost the ferry and had to drive over terrible roads to Conway and then back to Brookgreen — twenty more, finally reaching there at 1 P.M., having eaten some sandwiches while bouncing about in the car. The old garden looked even more attractive and a low bush of japonica was in bloom and very lovely. I felt a strong impulse to sit on the porch and not go back to the boat.



The second Brookgreen Plantation House rebuilt by the Hasell family after the original burned in 1901.



A rare photograph of the original Brookgreen Plantation house taken before it burned in 1901.

The house on the beach is quite different. Built almost on the sand with no trees or bushes in sight — also small and primitive — tho' not old and only heated by fireplaces. Its probably only cold at night and we can manage this year and by another have it added to.

There is certainly an enormous amount to be done in draining, fencing, and planting. So much of the land is in a run down condition.



Laurel Hill Plantation as it appeared in 1930.



Rear of the gun club beach house.

We went over to see the Laurel Hill part that is on a bluff at the bend of a river — most forlorn half ridden by wild growths, the river only seen from the bank, but it was a pretty view even in winter; in the distance one sees the tall chimney of the old rice-mill, the only thing left. The former house is also in ruins but could not have been attractive. I feel quite sure, that the beach-house to live in and the woods to ride in are all that we shall want. The white sand-paths that run among the trees shining like patches of snow among the patches of yellow and green moss add to the lure.

Even the swamp land is lovely with the oaks and their long swaying mosses, the lovely cypress with its uncanny trunk — bulbous — like poison mushroom growths, and lots of holly."

During March of 1930, the Huntingtons began setting up housekeeping in the gun club beach house to be nearby while the gardens were being developed at Brookgreen. In addition to the local labor they hired, the Huntingtons had brought with them several house servants under the guidance of the head housekeeper called Annie. Mrs. Huntington wrote that the maids "are all enchanted with the place and have already made collections of shells — all their windowsills are full and a few had ventured in to bathe for there were a few warm days before we came."

Further in the above mentioned letter we again gain a deeper insight into Mrs. Huntington's appreciation of her new home and its day-to-day happenings. She writes:

"As for me, I am having the joy of my life watching the breakers on the beach. It has always been a dream with me to live sometime where I could watch every changing mood of the ocean; it's certainly a feast for the gods and for a poor mortal it fairly turns one's head with the wonder of it. So you can imagine we are anticipating much pleasure and it will not be a life of pure idleness for there is an infinite amount to do here. This house having been built only for summers, its walls are thin and the only heating is by fire-places. And just now we have a nebulous plan of a simple fire-proof building.

We are glad to be back to our simpler cooking also, for the boat-chef was certainly a master in the art of even disguising the ordinary farm-yard hen, till he had you guessing whether "she" was a lobster or a sweet-bread for it was so buried under potatoes in form of cocks-combs, apples like chrysanthemums, carrots a flowering bush, lettuce like seaweed, not to mention the truffles, mushrooms, etc., that floated in the gravy; sometimes I failed to find the body that lay in this funeral-pyre.

A table with a pile of books, and two easy chairs are the only furnishing to our living-room but a big log-fire is our best friend in this cold westerly gale."



Front elevation of Hunt Club Beach House.

Today we take for granted the mobility of our society and our accessibility to the Grand Strand beaches. The experiences of the Huntingtons outline the great changes of the past fifty years. Of a later excursion returning from Charleston to Brookgreen, Mrs. Huntington wrote that the roads were "very bad as the surface is largely clay so that the heavy car we hired in the city slid

or bounced into the mud-holes making our return three hours instead of one and three quarters. And once the engine nearly blew up from getting overheated. At Georgetown we exchanged for a lighter one to finish the journey."

Although they were isolated, the Huntingtons were quite active during these early visits. They made daily inspections of the progress at Brookgreen Gardens and later the building of Atalaya. They had several nearby neighbors, the Norrises and Emersons, whom they visited often. As we learned earlier, they often did venture out overland to Charleston and Georgetown. Another road trip they made in March of 1930 was to Myrtle Beach to see the recently completed Ocean Forest Hotel. Mrs. Huntington wrote "that the new hotel cannot be prosperous," however it did prosper and for years was the standard by which other resorts of the Grand Strand compared themselves.

Another favorite activity of the Huntingtons was horseback riding. Mrs. Huntington wrote "the men have found us a couple of ponies that we can at least amble along the beach on . . ." Later she lamented that "We have hardly ridden any for one pony is too small to carry Archer and he must look for another; the little fellow grunted and protested at his weight. So we only walked them thru the woods where there are lovely paths."

In April of 1930 as the Huntingtons prepared to return North, she reflected on their winter home. It had been a good place to pursue her arts, and she began several works of sculpture. It was, however, the serenity of the place, the beauty of unspoiled nature and the grandeur of the ocean to which she was most firmly attached.

"Spring foliage is starting — especially the live oaks, their young leaves almost yellow, and there was a great variety of wild flowers along the road — probably there would be an infinite variety and the birds are so numerous — I hear their sweet notes outside of my window early mornings, their piping ever above the roar of the ocean."

THE CONSTRUCTION OF ATALAYA

The Huntingtons enjoyed living among the dunes, but their beach house had been constructed for summer occupancy only, and proved to be quite chilly at times during their winter visits. It appears from the beginning that the Huntingtons had planned to build a home of their own design to replace the beach house. Mrs. Huntington penned the following entry in her diary on April 15, 1930: "Archer has also decided to build something, decided that the sea-wall is an excellent start and what he has in mind would probably be a hair raiser to an architect."

What Mr. Huntington had in mind was present day Atalaya. The home's name has traditionally been translated from Spanish to mean "watch tower," and from the Huntington Family Papers we learn that the name was first applied to the home in December 1935. Built to resemble the Moorish architecture of the Spanish Mediterranean coast, the 200 foot square single story masonry building is often mistaken by visitors to be an old fort or prison.

Mr. Huntington was a well known Hispanic scholar and drew upon his intimate knowledge of Spain's architectural history and his own vivid imagination for Atalaya's design. It is truly a product of Mr. Huntington's mind, for there are no known architectural drawings or blueprints of the house. It appears that Mr. William Thomson, the contractor, and his workers, built according to Mr. Huntington's oral instructions.

With the completion of the new concrete roadway connecting Brookgreen Gardens with the beach, work commenced on the new house in January 1931. The Depression was beginning to have a severe effect on the local economy. In an effort to relieve some of the financial stress the local area was under, Mr. Huntington hired many skilled and unskilled laborers from the community to work at Brookgreen Gardens and the new house site. Supplies of building material for construction at the beach site were shipped up the Waccamaw River from Georgetown and off-loaded at Brookgreen Landing.



Construction of the concrete roadbed across the causeway which connects Brookgreen Gardens and the beach house.



Mr. Huntington (in the dark suit) discusses with William Thomson, the contractor, construction at Atalaya.

The first thing Mr. Huntington had his contractor, William Thomson, do was to lay a U-shaped concrete pad roughly five inches thick around the beach house. Working only from a plan in his mind, Mr. Huntington then ordered the brick masons to begin raising the walls and left directions for locating openings for windows and doors. To assist with the structural problems which were beginning to appear, Mr. Huntington had a Mr. Christie from his Newport News Shipyard visit the site. Mr. Christie later returned to the shipyard to work out the roof plans and order the iron beams to support it.

During January and February, the mason laid up the walls incorporating the existing seawall in the house as the concrete slabs were completed. In early March the workmen plastered the exterior walls with a cement coating. Mrs. Huntington commented in her diary how difficult it was "to get the cement workers to understand rough surface needed for plastering cement over brick for outside coating." By the middle of the month, the painters had arrived and begun work, and at this time Mr. Huntington also ordered the foundation for the tower laid. As the Huntingtons were preparing to leave in May to return home, the workers had

begun laying bricks for the tower, laid out the walkways for the courtyard and erected poles for the electrical service from Brookgreen Gardens to the beach house.



Mr. William Thomson, the contractor of Atalaya. He was to have said of Atalaya's construction, "Mr. Huntington, if you tell much more, I'll find out what you're building."





The tower under construction before the removal of the beach house.

Before closing in the outer courtyard on the western side, the gun club beach house was divided into three sections and moved during June and July. One section was moved to the entrance and converted to a residence. The other two were attached to the north wall and utilized as servants' quarters until they were removed in the 1950's.

Preparations for the return trip to Brookgreen Gardens were begun in the fall of the following year. Mrs. Huntington wrote that they had received word that the roof still had several leaks, but that the water system was functioning and the power would be established by the following month. They sent a van load of furnishings and clothing, arriving there themselves in early December. They were quite distressed on their arrival to learn that the instructions left concerning the construction of the house had not been followed to the letter. Mrs. Huntington wrote in her diary on December 6: "Went over the north half of house and found

many things to be done and several alterations where instructions were not carried out correctly," but she also added, "the house will be very liveable when all we have in mind is carried out"

The next six months were to be very busy. Mrs. Huntington's diary entry on New Year's 1932 set the tone when she stated that "men all working New Year's Day — no holiday here." As the construction phase of the courtyard was completed, Frank Green Tarbox, Jr., a Clemson graduate in agronomy hired by the Huntingtons as Brookgreen Gardens' horticulturist, began landscaping it with palms, palmetto and grass. In March, Tito and Roger, a Miami based foundry, delivered the wrought iron window grilles and installation began. As early spring approached, the masons were finishing the open brick work on the roof and tower. The walkway was covered and flowers planted in the concrete planter boxes.

By May 5, 1932, Mrs. Huntington recorded in her diary that "all outside workers stop today" The following month the Huntingtons left, not returning until March of 1934.



Rear of Atalaya photographed from the tower. Today this same area is covered by woodlands.

THE HUNTINGTONS LATER YEARS

With the completion of the major construction of Atalaya in 1932, Mrs. Huntington had more time to devote to her own work, while being able to work with her husband more on the development of Brookgreen Gardens and the acquisition of additional sculpture to be placed there. By the mid-1930's, Mrs. Huntington was almost fully recovered from her bout with tuberculosis. During a short winter stay at Atalaya in 1936 she was quite busy with a swan study and with other modelling. In the spring of that year she had a Mr. Moynihan and his sons cast twenty-one new pieces for her which were part of a large exhibit sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters.



Mr. and Mrs. Huntington and an unidentified gentleman on a boating excursion to Sandy Island in 1935.

Mrs. Huntington's first traveling exhibit was organized and began touring in 1937. It contained pieces representative of her forty years as a sculptor. There were among the pieces, some new, unusual sculptural studies of wild birds from Brookgreen and Atalaya. Also included in the show were pieces from her 1936 exhibit.

World War II brought a temporary end to the visits when Atalaya was occupied by members of the United States Air Corps from the Myrtle Beach Air Field. These military personnel were responsible for patrolling the beaches and operating the targets for the 455th Bombardment Squadron stationed at the air field. The grounds were fortified with machine guns, and the building housed a radar unit and its personnel. The attached house from Laurel Hill, moved in the 1930's, served as a mess hall. During target practice runs, there were several plane crashes on the Brookgreen property, one occurring southwest of Atalaya near the beach.

Following the end of World War II, the Huntingtons came to Atalaya in 1946 and 1947, but these were their last trips. The infirmities of old age were beginning to affect them both. Mr. Huntington died at "Stanerigg," their home near Bethel, Connecticut, on December 11, 1955. Knowing she would probably never visit Atalaya again, Mrs. Huntington had its furnishings shipped to her home in Connecticut or incorporated into the office at Brookgreen Gardens.

Mrs. Huntington was quite active with her work after her husband's death and continued to receive international recognition. Her last major work was of General Israel Putnam, which was completed when she was ninety-one. When she died on October 4, 1973, she left a legacy in stone and metal that would survive for generations to come.



Atalaya from the oceanside prior to the moving of the beach house.



The interior of Atalaya prior to the construction of the walkway.

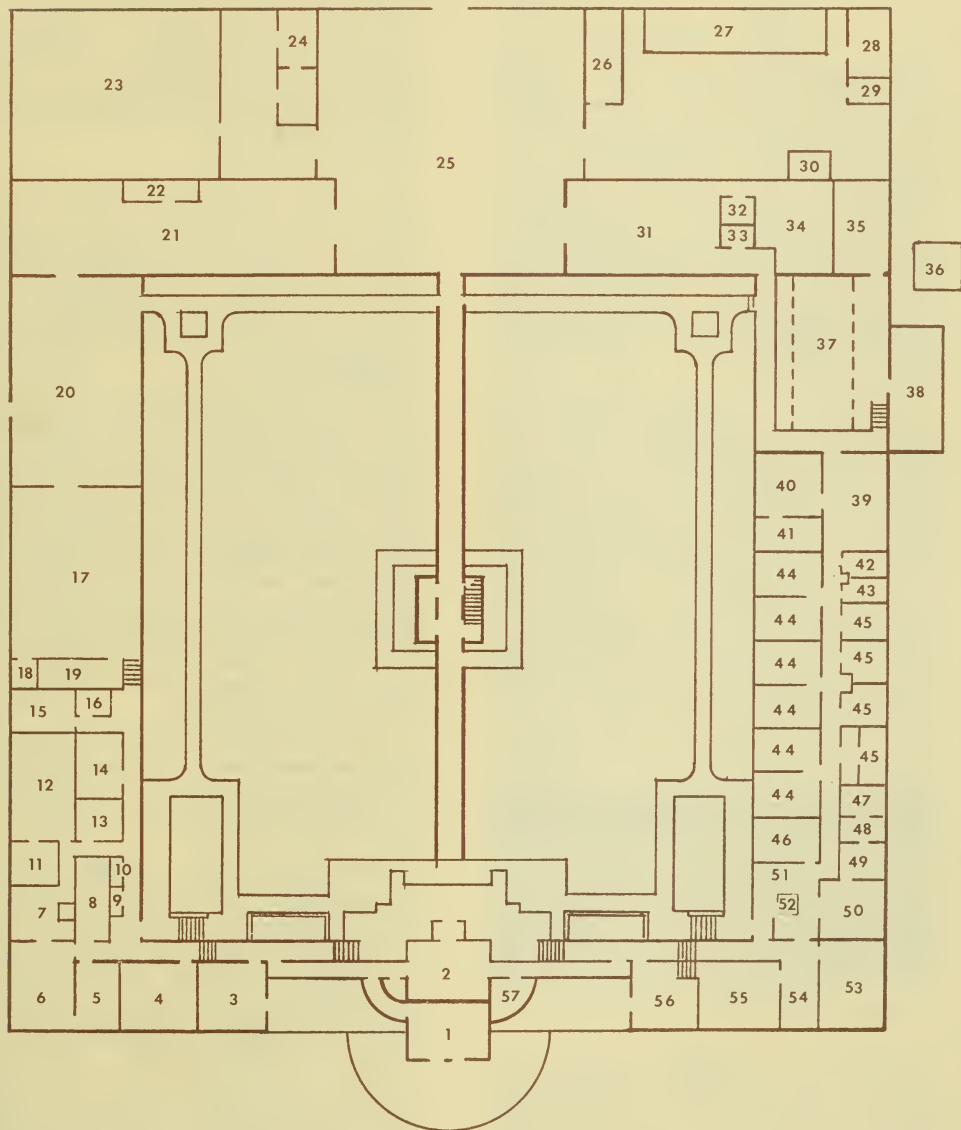
KEY — INTERIOR OF ATALAYA

1. Sun Room
2. Foyer
3. Library
4. Secretary's Room and Bath (Miss Perkins)
5. Mrs. Huntington's Bath
6. Master Bedroom
7. Mr. Huntington's Bath
8. Clothes Storage
9. Clothes Storage
10. Clothes Storage
11. Valuables Storage
12. Mr. Huntington's Study
13. Clothes Storage
14. Linen Storage
15. Secretary's Office
16. Office Supplies Storage
17. Indoor Studio
18. Studio Restroom
19. Studio Storage
20. Outdoor Studio
21. Stables
22. Tack Room
23. Dog Kennels
24. Bear Pens
25. Paved Courtyard
26. Oyster Shucking Room
27. Wood Shed
28. Wood Shed
29. Incinerator
30. Fuel Tank (later than 1930's)
31. Garage
32. Restroom
33. Storage
34. Generator Room
35. Wood Storage
36. Cistern
37. Laundry Drying Yard
38. Laundryman's Quarters
39. Laundry Room
40. Housekeeper's Room (Miss McKinnon)
41. Housekeeper's Bath
42. Servants' Bath (Male and Female)
43. Servants' Bath (Male and Female)
44. Servants' Quarters
45. Storage
46. Cook's Quarters
47. Walk-in Ice Box
48. Pantry
49. Pantry and Equipment Storage
50. Kitchen
51. Food Preparation Room
52. Wooden Chopping Block Table
53. Servants' Living Room
54. Food Service Room
55. Dining Room
56. Breakfast Room
57. Restroom

The map on the opposite page depicts the layout of the interior of Atalaya as it appeared when the Huntingtons lived there. If you walked through the house today, you would see that there have been some minor interior alterations when you compare the layout to the rooms today. The most noticeable are in the southeastern corner in Room 4, where it has been partitioned and in Rooms 7, 11, and 12,

where door openings and passages have been changed. These changes were made during the 1950's, to accommodate a caretaker and his family.

There are several rooms and sheds throughout the interior which are utilized by the park staff and unfortunately are off limits to the public.



INTERIOR OF ATALAYA

NATURAL AREAS

Mr. Huntington, in a June 7, 1931, interview for the **Charleston News and Courier**, told the reporter that he had not purchased Brookgreen as a hunting preserve, but preferred "to study wildlife under natural conditions". Today this tradition is still being carried on by the Trustees of Brookgreen Gardens and the Division of State Parks, who have assumed the responsibilities for the preservation and interpretation of the flora and fauna found within the various habitats of Brookgreen Gardens and Huntington Beach State Park.

At the time the Huntingtons were having the shell road from Brookgreen Gardens to Magnolia Beach resurfaced with concrete, they had the southern extremity of the Murrells Inlet salt marsh impounded, creating freshwater ponds on either side of the causeway leading from the mainland to the beach (see park map). The impoundment backed-up the waters of Old Field and Rose Branches, which were augmented by an artesian well on the site keeping the ponds fresh. The larger pond to the north of the causeway was known as Mullet Pond and the other as Mallard Pond.



The earthen dam built across the lower extremity of Murrells Inlet by the Huntingtons to form Mullet Pond.

In October of 1954, Hurricane Hazel struck the coast of South Carolina. The ocean waves flattened the beach's protective sand dunes and surged inland, washing out the dam and causeway, severely damaging the ponds. The dam and causeway were repaired following the storm and the freshwater ponds were restored.

The entrance road through the park today crosses the Huntingtons' freshwater impoundment mentioned earlier. As you cross the dam, the salt marsh will be to the north and Mullet Pond, which today is referred to as the "Lagoon", to the south.

Up to 1975, the plant cover on the pond was Yellow Pond Lily (*Nuphar* sp.). Due to the infiltration of salt water and the resultant brackish environment, this species has been replaced by Widgeongrass (*Ruppia* sp.). This plant can be found in brackish water and saltwater, whereas Yellow Pond Lily is strictly a freshwater plant.

The Huntingtons knew about the diversity of birds in this area, for one of Archer Huntington's main reasons for coming to Brookgreen was to study and preserve nature. Today, Huntington Beach State Park is considered by many to be the best area in the state for "birding". The road leading into the park and which separates the Mullet Pond from the salt marsh, is an excellent bird watching area. Many species of wading birds and shorebirds can be seen such as: Great Blue Heron, Purple Gallinule, Laughing Gull, Snowy Egret, Clapper Rail, Oystercatcher and the Eastern Brown Pelican.

The park hosts a good variety of mollusk shells and sea organisms for the beachcomber to enjoy and study. You may get lucky and find the lettered olive, recently named the state shell.

Not only can you comb the beaches in search of unusual treasures from the sea, but there is also a great diversity of vegetation found on the park. Here you will find an oak-pine forest and if you travel to its southern extremity, you can study marsh land and revel at the magnitude of the smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora* sp.), which covers 60% of the park.

The park also hosts a State Co-Champion Silverling tree, (*Baccharis halimifolia* sp.). This tree has a circumference of one foot two inches and is sixteen feet tall. This species is normally considered a shrub so the size of this specimen is of considerable note.

To aid you in your nature study, we have included the following annotated species list of plants and animals that have been recorded on the park.

BIRDS

Pied-billed Grebe (Dab-chick or Didapper)	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Double-crested Cormorant	Flicker
Sooty Shearwater (Only seen dead at Huntington)	Downy Woodpecker
Ring-billed Gull	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Herring Gull	Pileated Woodpecker
Laughing Gull	Red-headed Woodpecker
Black Tern	Great Crested Flycatcher
Least Tern	Wood Pewee
Forster's Tern	Eastern Kingbird
Caspian Tern	Barn Swallow
Royal Tern	Rough-winged Swallow
Black Skimmer	Purple Martin
Louisiana Heron	Chimney Swift
Little Blue Heron	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Snowy Egret	Carolina Chickadee
American Egret	Tufted Titmouse
Great Blue Heron	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Yellow-Crowned Night Heron	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Green Heron	Bluebird
Least Bittern	Robin
White Ibis	Wood Thrush
Glossy Ibis	Brown Thrasher
Sora	Mockingbird
Clapper Rail	Catbird
Purple Gallinule	Carolina Wren
Florida Gallinule	Long-billed Marsh Wren
American Coot	Red-eyed Vireo
Hudsonian Curlew	Yellow-throated Vireo
Oystercatcher	White-eyed Vireo
Black-bellied Plover	Yellow-breasted Chat
Wilson's Plover	Parula Warbler
Semipalmated Plover	Yellow-throated Warbler
Killdeer	Pine Warbler
Willot	Hooded Warbler
Spotted Sandpiper	Yellow-throated Warbler
Sanderling	Boat-tailed Grackle
Bobwhite	Common (Purple) Grackle
Red-shouldered Hawk	Red-Winged Blackbird
Sparrow Hawk	Starling
Turkey Vulture	Kingfisher
Black Vulture	Bluejay
Osprey	Orchard Oriole
Barred Owl	Summer Tanager
Ground Dove	Cardinal
Mourning Dove	Painted Bunting
Chuck Will's Widow	Indigo Bunting
Nighthawk	House Sparrow

MAMMALS

Bobcat	River Otter
Eastern Chipmunk	Opossum
White-tailed Deer	Marsh Rabbits
Gray Fox	Raccoons
Field Mice	Kangaroo Rats
Mink	Shrews
Muskrat	Gray Squirrels

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Green Anole	Southern Ringneck Snake
American Alligator	Rough Green Snake
Five-lined Skink	Eastern Hognose Snake
Eastern Mud Turtle	Painted Snake
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	Northern Red-bellied Snake
Eastern Kingsnake	Southern Copperhead
Scarlet Kingsnake	Eastern Cottonmouth
Scarlet Snake	Eastern Coral Snake
Black Rat Snake	Canebrake Rattlesnake
Yellow Rat Snake (Greenish form)	Southern Toad
Eastern Coachwhip	

MOLLUSKS

Disk Shell	Thick-lipped Drill
Great Heart Cockle	Three-lined Pandora
Common Cockle	Ram's Horn
Spiny Paper Cockle	Surf Clam
China Cockle	Little Surf Clam
Channeled Duck	Wentletrap
Lined Duck	Banded Tulip
Atlantic Coquina	Stout Razor Clam
Cross-barred Venus	Common Razor Clam
Calico Scallop	False Angel Wing
Ponderous Ark	Atlantic Wing Oyster
Cut-ribbed Ark	Angel Wing
Incongruous Ark	Gaping Lyonsia
Bloody Clam	Little Key-hole Limpet
Eared Ark	Ear Shell
Winged Pearl Oyster	Flat Slipper
Stiff Pen Shell	Little Boat Shell
Saw-toothed Pen Shell	Thorny Slipper Shell
Jingle Shell	Boat Shell
Virginia Oyster	Periwinkle
Kitten's Paw Oyster	Alternate Tellin
Scorched Mussel	Auger
Tulip Mussel	Lettered Olive
Channeled Whelk	Quahog Clam
Lightning Whelk	American Bittersweet
Moon Shell	Kear Nut Shell
Oyster Drill	Carolina Polymesoda

FISH

Inshore

Black Sea Bass	Flounder
Channel Bass	Spanish Mackerel
Striped Bass	Shad
Bluefish	Sheepshead
Croaker	Spot
Black Drum	Spotted Sea Trout
Red Drum	King Whiting

Offshore

Black Sea Bass	Jacks
Billfish	Mackerel
Bluefish	Porgies
Dolphin	Snapper
Groupers	Tunas
Grunts	

Solidago sempervirens	Seaside Goldenrod
Spartina patens	Marshhay Cordgrass
Sporobolus virginicus	Dropseed
Tamarix gallica	Fire Cedar
Triplasis purpurea	Sand Grass
Uniola paniculata	Sea Oats
Vitis species	Grapes

SEA CREATURES

Common Starfish	Horseshoe or King Crab
Sand Star	Hermit Crab
Giant Starfish	Mole Crab
Brittle Sea Star	Sand Flea or Beach Hopper
Sea Urchin	Skeleton Shrimp
Southern Heart Urchin	Acorn or Rock Barnacle
Sand Dollar	Gooseneck Barnacle
Sea Cucumber	Tube or Parchment Worm
Fiddler Crabs	Portuguese Man-of-War
Blue Swimming Crab	Southern Jellyfish
Lady Crab	Northern Stone or Small Stony Coral
Stone Crab	Sea Whip - a horny coral
Common Spider Crab	Sea Finger - a soft coral
Ghost Crab (or Shore Crab)	Sea Pansy
Pea Crab	Sea Grapes

FRESH WATER MARSH

Trees

Alnus serrulata	Tag Alder
Fraxinus caroliniana	Water Ash
Magnolia virginiana	Sweet Bay
Nyssa aquatica	Water Tupelo
Populus deltoides	Cottonwood
Salix nigra	Black Willow

Shrubs

Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush
Gaylussacia dumosa	Dwarf Huckleberry
Hibiscus moscheutos	Rose Mallow
Sambucus canadensis	Elderberry
Wisteria frutescens	Wisteria

SAND DUNES

Acanthospermum australe	Spring Bur
Agrostis hyemalis	Rough-hair Grass
Amaranthus pumilus	Coast Amaranth
Ampelopsis arborea	Pepper-Vine
Andropogon	Broom-Straw
Baccharis halimifolia	Sea-Myrtle
Bacopa monnieri	Monnier's Hedge-Hyssop
Cenchrus tribuloides	Bar Grass
Cnidoscolus stimulosus	Spurge Nettle
Commelina erecta	Dayflower
Croton punctatus	Silver-leaf Croton
Cynodon dactylon	Bermuda Grass
Diodia teres	Rough Buttonweed
Eremochloa ophiuroides	Centipede Grass
Erigeron canadensis	Horseweed
Euphorbia species	Seaside Spurge
Heterotheca subaxillaris	Camphorweed
Hydrocotyle bonariensis	Largeleaf Pennywort
Iva imbricata	Marsh Elder
Lechea leggettii	Leggett's Pin-weed
Lespedeza species	Bushclover
Limonium carolinianum	Sea Lavender
Oenothera humifusa	Seaside Evening Primrose
Optunia species	Prickly-pear Cactus
Panicum amarum	Bitter Panicum
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Virginia Creeper
Physalis viscosa	Clammy Ground Cherry
Plantago species	Plantain
Rubus species	Blackberry
Smilax auriculata	Catbrier

Herbaceous Plants

Carex species	Sedges
Clematis crispa	Leather-flower
Dichondra carolinensis	Dichondra
Eleocharis canadensis	Water-weed
Fimbristylis species	Sedge
Hydrocotyle species	Marsh Pennywort
Juncus species	Rushes
Nymphaea species	Water Lily
Pontederia cordata	Pickeralweed
Rhynchospora corniculata	Beak Rush
Sagittaria falcata	Arrowhead
Saururus cernuus	Lizard's Tail
Scirpus cyperinus	Woolgrass
Spirodela polyrrhiza	Spirodela
Typha angustifolia	Narrow-leaved Cattail
Utricularia inflata	Swollen Bladderwort

SALT WATER MARSH

Atriplex patula	Saltbush
Baccharis halimifolia	Sea-Myrtle
Dichromena colorata	Narrowleaf Dichromena
Hemicarpha micrantha	Common Hemicarpha
Juncus species	Rushes
Kosteletskyia virginica	Seashore Mallow
Limonium carolinianum	Sea Lavender
Lythrum lineare	Loosestrife
Sabatia species	Glasswort
Salicornia virginica	Sabatia
Suaeda linearis	Sea Blight

FOREST AND WOODED SWAMPS

Trees

<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Mimosa
<i>Aralia spinosa</i>	Devil's Walking Stick
<i>Carya aquatica</i>	Swamp Hickory
<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Mockernut Hickory
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Common Persimmon
<i>Fraxinus caroliniana</i>	Water Ash
<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweetgum
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweet Bay
<i>Morus rubra</i>	Red Mulberry
<i>Pinus palustris</i>	Longleaf Pine
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	Loblolly Pine
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	Carolina Laurel Cherry
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry
<i>Quercus laevis</i>	Turkey Oak
<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>	Laurel Oak
<i>Quercus nigra</i>	Water Oak
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Live Oak
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald cypress
<i>Sabal minor</i>	Dwarf Palmetto
<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	Cabbage Palmetto

Shrubs

<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Red Buckeye
<i>Berchemia scandens</i>	Supple-jack
<i>Campsis radicans</i>	Trumpet vine
<i>Castanea pumila</i>	Chinquapin
<i>Cicuta maculata</i>	Water Hemlock (herb)
<i>Cornus stricta</i>	Swamp Dogwood
<i>Crataegus uniflora</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Gaylussacia dumosa</i>	Dwarf Huckleberry
<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>	Yaupon Holly
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	Coral Honeysuckle
<i>Myrica cerifera</i>	Wax Myrtle
<i>Persea borbonia</i>	Red Bay
<i>Rhus copallina</i>	Dwarf Sumac
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	Elderberry
<i>Vaccinium species</i>	Blueberry
<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>	American Wisteria
<i>Zanthoxylum clava-herculis</i>	Hercules-Club

Herbaceous Plants

<i>Anisostichus capreolata</i>	Cross Vine
<i>Asplenium platyneuron</i>	Ebony Spleenwort
<i>Aster species</i>	Asters
<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	False Nettle
<i>Callicarpa</i>	Beauty-berry
<i>Cassia species</i>	Partridge Pea
<i>Chenopodium species</i>	Lamb's Quarters
<i>Chimaphila maculata</i>	Spotted Wintergreen
<i>Cinna arundinacea</i>	Wood Reed
<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	Virgin's Bower
<i>Dioscorea villosa</i>	Wild Yam
<i>Elephantopus species</i>	Elephant's Foot
<i>Erigeron species</i>	Daisy Fleabane
<i>Eupatorium species</i>	Dog Fennel
<i>Ipomoea species</i>	Morning Glory
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>	Wild Peppergrass
<i>Lobelia elongata</i>	Long-leaved Lobelia
<i>Meibomia species (Desmodium)</i>	Beggar Lice
<i>Mollugo verticillata</i>	Indian Chickweed
<i>Monotropa uniflora</i>	Indian Pipe
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon Fern
<i>Oxalis species</i>	Wood Sorrel
<i>Panicum species</i>	Panic Grass
<i>Passiflora species</i>	Passion Flower
<i>Polygonum species</i>	Knotweed
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern
<i>Rumex Species</i>	Dock
<i>Setaria species</i>	Foxtail Grass
<i>Smilax species</i>	Greenbrier
<i>Solidago species</i>	Goldenrod
<i>Tephrosia spicata</i>	Goat's Rue
<i>Tillandsia usneoides</i>	Spanish Moss
<i>Tradescantia species</i>	Spiderwort



HUNTINGTON BEACH
STATE PARK
AND
BROOKGREEN GARDENS



THE PLANTATION PROPERTIES OF BROOKGREEN — LAUREL HILL

Laurel Hill, the northernmost of the four plantations which made up the original purchase of the Huntingtons, was part of a 1,300 acre grant to Robert Daniel. Through a series of purchases, it eventually became the property of William Waties, Jr., who registered it in the memorial book of quit rents to the crown on February 15, 1732. The plantation was known prior to 1732 as "Lorrill Hill"; its name is thought to have derived from the large numbers of magnolias found on the property which were mistaken for laurels.

The property remained in the Waties family until 1750 when it was sold to Gabriel Marion. Marion kept the plantation until 1775 when it was sold to Plowden Weston, a wealthy Charleston merchant, who acquired adjoining property from William Allston. During the American Revolution, Laurel Hill produced foodstuffs which supplied Peter Horry's troops.

At the death of Plowden Weston in 1827, Laurel Hill was inherited by his eldest son, Francis Marion Weston. F.M. Weston continued to increase the family landholdings by purchasing the Hagley plantation from one of the Allstons. Plowden Charles Jennet Weston, F.M. Weston's son by his first marriage, inherited the whole estate after his father's death in 1854. P.C.J. Weston was tutored by Alexander Glennie, the rector at All Saints Waccamaw Church, and later attended Harrow in England. In 1847 he married Emily Frances Esdaile, the sister of a classmate from Harrow. In a move to round out his estate, Weston sold Laurel Hill to Col. Daniel W. Jordan in the late 1850's and purchased adjoining property from Col. T.P. Alston. During the Civil War, Jordan permanently moved to Camden, never to return to Laurel Hill. The plantation was sold at auction after the Civil War. Several generations later the property was acquired by the owners of the Waccamaw Club and Dr. J.A. Mood of Sumter. It was Dr. Mood who first consolidated the four plantations which were eventually to be acquired by the Huntingtons.

THE PLANTATION PROPERTIES OF BROOKGREEN GARDENS — THE OAKS

The Oaks was one of several plantations owned by Joseph Allston and his wife, Charlotte Rothmahler Allston, in the 1750's. Josiah Quincy of Massachusetts described his visit with the Allstons in 1773 as follows:

"Spent this night with Mr. Joseph Allston, a gentleman of immense income all of his own acquisition. He is a person between thirty-nine and forty, and a very few years ago begun the world with only five negroes — has now five plantations with an hundred slaves on each. He told me his neat income was but about five or six thousand pounds sterling a year, he is reputed much richer. His plantation, negroes, gardens, etc., are in the best order of any I have seen! He has propagated the Lisbon and Wine-Island grapes with great success. I was entertained with more true hospitality and benevolence by his family than any I had met with. His good lady filled a wallet, with bread, biscuit, wine, fowl, and tongue, and presented it next morning. The wine I declined, but gladly received the rest. At about twelve o'clock in a sandy pine desert I enjoyed a fine regalement, and having met with a refreshing spring, I remembered the worthy Mr. Allston and Lady with more warmth of affection and hearty benizons, than ever I toasted King or Queen, or Saint or Hero."

Joseph Allston was a militant patriot contributing his money and political skills to the American cause. At his death in 1784, he left The Oaks to his grandson, Joseph, son of William Allston, making the young five year old Joseph a very rich boy. William Allston dropped the "I" in the family name about the time of George Washington's visit.

On a visit to the North as a young adult, in the late 1790's, Joseph Alston met Theodosia Burr, daughter of Aaron Burr. With the blessing of her father, Theodosia married Joseph in February 1801, after which they moved to South Carolina.

In 1802 they celebrated the birth of their first born, Aaron Burr Alston. Theodosia was having problems adjusting to the climate and her rural surroundings. This was compounded by her father's exile to Europe and later the death of her only child in 1812. In December, 1812, Theodosia sailed for New York on the *Patriot* to meet her father for the first time in several years. The ship carrying Mrs. Alston never reached New York and is believed to have sunk off Cape Hatteras in North Carolina. Many legends have evolved concerning the death of Theodosia Alston. Joseph never seemed to have recovered from the loss of his son and his wife and died in 1816 at the age of thirty-seven. He was buried in the family cemetery at The Oaks.

With the death of Joseph, The Oaks passed to his nephew and namesake, and later to other family members.

THE PLANTATION PROPERTIES OF BROOKGREEN GARDENS— SPRINGFIELD AND BROOKGREEN

Between Laurel Hill and The Oaks were the plantations of Springfield and Brookgreen. Although they are often referred to separately, they have been under common ownership for most of their existence. The lands that make up these two plantations were part of the land grants received from George II by William and Joseph Allston in 1734 and 1735.

John Alston died in 1750 leaving Brookgreen to his son, William, who became known as William of Brookgreen to distinguish him from his kinsman of the same name. William was an ardent patriot who supported the Revolution with his wealth, services and ultimately his life. After Captain Allston's death the second Mrs. Allston married Dr. Henry Collins Flagg of Rhode Island, who had come South to be a surgeon for General Nathaniel Greene. It was Dr. Flagg who

welcomed President Washington to Brookgreen during his Southern tour of 1791.

Washington Allston, the son of William Allston by his second wife, Rachel Moore, inherited Springfield at his father's death. Born on November 5, 1779, young Washington was sent North to live because the climate of Carolina did not suite his constitution. He began studying painting and sold Springfield to his brother Benjamin Allston, in order to finance his studies. Washington Allston became best known for his paintings; however, his abilities crossed over into writing and sculpture. He became famous for his artistic creations on both sides of the Atlantic.

Brookgreen, at William Allston's death, went to Benjamin, his son by his first wife, Anne Simons Allston. Benjamin appears to have posted a surety bond for a friend or family member who defaulted. Robert and Francis Withers came to the aid of Benjamin and purchased the plantation.

Sometime in 1800, Joshua Ward, the son of a Charleston lawyer and merchant family, acquired Brookgreen from the Withers brothers. It was Ward's son, Col. Joshua John Ward who was to become the wealthiest and most well known of the Ward family. Educated in Scotland, Col. Ward owned six plantations in the Waccamaw region at his death. In 1847 J.J. Ward purchased the Springfield property from Mary Wilkinson Memminger who had inherited it from her uncles, the Withers brothers.

At his death in 1853, J.J. Ward left his wife, Joanna Douglas Hasell Ward, the home at Brookgreen, furnishings and the summer residence at Magnolia (Huntington Beach State Park). To his eldest son, Joshua, he left Brookgreen and Springfield. At Joshua's death in 1869, the plantations were held for his son, Samuel Mortimer Ward, who was a minor.

In 1869 the property was leased to Dr. Lewis Cruger Hasell who, because of hard times, was able to purchase the property in 1870 for the price of \$10,000. Hasell's brother-in-law, Marinus Willett of New York, purchased Springfield and made an attempt to grow rice again. It was during the Hasell ownership that the Allston family house burned in 1901.

After the death of Hasell and his wife, the property passed to Mrs. Hasell's sister-in-law, Edith Willet. The heirs sold the property to Dr. Mood for the Waccamaw Club in 1920.

Also living on the Brookgreen estate at this time was Dr. Joshua John Ward Flagg. Flagg, his servant, and niece were among the only survivors at Magnolia Beach of the Hurricane of 1893 that devastated the coast and drowned several members of the family at Magnolia Beach.

HOT AND HOT FISH CLUB

Drunken Jack Island lies in the midst of the salt marsh at the north end of the park. It has a very colorful history with stories of pirates and buried treasure. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, it was the site of the Hot and Hot Fish Club. The club was organized by prominent planters of the Waccamaw region as a social and political club. Governor R.F.W. Alston in his *Reminiscences* wrote the following description of the club meetings:

"There was but one salt dish (beef or ham) and one of fresh meat (generally game) on table, and these were furnished, together with rice, in turns. For the rest, every member caught his own dinner and enough for his boat hands, each contributing some kind of bread, and such condiments as he liked. The club-house was situated within fifty feet of the inlet-waters, on the northern extremity of "Drunken Jack," a small island on Murrell's inlet partially covered with stunted trees and within sight of all the fishing grounds. At one o'clock the President repaired to his post, and raised a flag to call in the boats; the fish taken by each boat was surveyed, and each variety in turn was duly discussed. Sometimes the admiring crowd was enlightened by a narration of the capture. Cavally, frequently, and the finest whiting and sailors' choice, (the "hog-fish" of North Carolina and Virginia,) were among the material of the dinner. Certain hands from each boat being detailed to clean these fish, (the rule was, after scaling, to wash the fish in three waters, the last to be fresh) the boats dropped off into the stream, within two or three hundred yards and recom-

menced fishing, coming in one by one to fetch whatever was choice, during dinner. Thus, not frequently, the best of the fish came last, and there were not wanting several at table whose experienced palates taught them to reserve a vacant place for the fish coming in second course, "hot and hot."

The Club was damaged by one of the several storms which struck the beaches during this period and moved to the site of Ward's salt vats mentioned earlier. This site is also located on the park on the mainland side north of the entrance road near the causeway. It was relocated several more times in an effort to better serve its members with a more central location.

THE HURRICANE OF 1893

One of the most tragic stories associated with Magnolia Beach concerns the hurricane which struck the coast on October 13, 1893. What started out as a normal fall vacation for members of the Flagg family and their house servants ended in death and destruction. Of all the houses on Magnolia at the time, the Hasell house was the only one left standing and only a few lived to tell the story. One of those was Dr. Ward Flagg who lost his father and mother as well as his brother and family. Dr. Flagg related the following description of the drama in a 1932 interview with Mrs. Zaidee Poe Brawley.

"It has been thirty-nine years ago — and now I am an old man. I have not much longer in this house where I have lived so many years. This was the Miller's house. My father planted rice here at Brookgreen and on his other plantation. He had houses like this for his miller and his overseer.

When it first happened I couldn't put it out of my mind. It was always with me. I do not believe that when people die they are like dogs and other animals, who simply die and end. But I do not believe in a hell where they suffer afterwards. It is in a man's mind that he suffers punishment while he is living.

It happened on the 13th — a bad luck day the 13th — a Friday too, the 13th of October 1893, when the great storm came and made the new inlet and filled up the old inlet. Our house was on Magnolia. About 3½

miles from this house and about 1³/₄ miles above the house Mr. Huntington has built on the beach, ³/₄ miles below South of our house was my brother's house where he lived with his pretty young wife, Mattie La Bruce, his six children and Mattie's two sisters who had come from New York to visit her.

October was always our best month on Magnolia — no flies, no mosquitoes and we did not expect any storm.

It was ten o'clock in the morning when the terrible storm blew out of the east and all at once it got blacker and blacker so that it was just like the middle of the night. The big waves began to come way up the beach, rushing toward the house and we stood, my father and my brother and I, to watch the storm. My father said, "I am afraid we may lose the house." I got two axes and began tearing away the floors in the piazza and my brother in the house so that the rooms downstairs could fill with water and keep the house down. But the roof of the porch caved and I said — Run — everybody — run and swim all to the tree. The house was a house very much like your house at Pauley's Island, Mrs. Brawley, and the tree was an old, gnarled, husky cedar, very strong and spreading. There were fifteen negroes with us. My man who takes care of me now was one of them. He was the son of the children's nurse. I was thirty-three then — my father was 65 but my mother was 60 and she was in her prime. We got to the tree and we all crowded under the spreading branches and held on tight as we could but the water kept sweeping over us and then we would be beaten under again. My father and mother kept rising and whenever I saw them losing hold, I caught them and pulled them back. My little niece was with me and I took a piece of the flooring I had split off and braced her with the nurse's son in a crotch of the cedar tree and I told the negroes none of them must let go.

They held on like leeches — lashing their strong legs and arms over and around the cedar. Seven of them drowned but they didn't let go the tree. My mother always said she didn't want to be sick and die — she

didn't want to be any trouble and care to anybody. She always said I wish I could die right with your father and he would put his arms around me and we would go together and not be any trouble to anybody. He put his arms around her waist and held her up close to him and she put her arms around him right under his arm pits and she would try to push him up when the water came and he would get down on the tree and try to push her up. The last time I saw them come up, they were just like she always said. She wasn't sick and my father had her close in his arms. Maybe they could have gotten out of it if it had not been for a wire fence my father had put around the house. The water came just like a wall around us and the fence wrapped around anybody who tried to swim through it. When my father and mother didn't come up anymore, I felt I was going off too but I didn't worry about my brother. He was such a strong swimmer.

All at once, just like it had come on us, the wall of water began to go down again and in a little while the tree was not under water and my niece, and my man here and five negroes were clinging like leeches.

When I could get down, I wanted to get help so I went up the strand to find my brother and Mattie so they could help me look for my father and mother. Their house was gone and they were all gone. But after a while, I saw Mattie. She looked like she was lying on a mattress and her arms were stretched out like she was floating in water. I went to her and she was drowned. She had wrapped up just like she was in a shroud of barbed wire fencing. The waves had rolled her up in it and her arms were sticking out straight on each side through the wire. She was beautiful and I didn't want her to wash off in the tide so I found a cold chisel in an old brick took house and I worked two hours and I got her out.

... It all happened on the 13th of October, thirty-nine years ago. It was Friday and Friday the thirteenth is a bad luck day."

